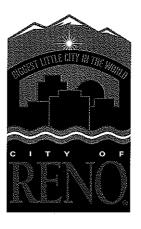
Robert A. Cashell, Sr. *Mayor*

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"The most livable of Nevada cities; the focus of culture, commerce and tourism in northern Nevada."

March 8, 2012

Mr. Michael Heffner, President Caughlin Ranch Homeowners Association 1100 Caughlin Crossing, Suite 60 Reno, NV 89519

Thank you for your letter dated February 2, 2012.

As you are aware from our presentation to your group, the Washoe County Board of Fire Commissioners (comprised of the members of the County Commission) decided to terminate the consolidated fire service agreement.

This agreement provided seamless service to both City of Reno and Truckee Meadows residents. Without it, we at the City of Reno do not know how service will be delivered to the unincorporated areas, including the county "islands", like the one where 1/3 of your association residents live. We have repeatedly asked for public meetings to discuss service agreements to the islands, but County officials have refused to hold these meetings. Our most recent request is to hold a Joint Session with Washoe County March 19 and the County has declined to participate in a preparatory meeting to set that agenda.

There are two very different types of "aid agreements" we should be talking about. A "Mutual Aid" agreement is typical between two neighboring jurisdictions. Under such an agreement if one jurisdiction needs help from another, they simply request it and the aid is sent if resources are available. After a certain threshold of equipment and manpower there would be financial consequences for the agency asking for the help. Those details would all be worked out in the agreement.

A second type of aid agreement is for "Automatic Aid", under which both agencies are automatically alerted at the first call to dispatch. Whichever agency has resources closer would respond first, regardless of jurisdiction. That agency would be the "primary responder": first on the scene and responsible for incident command. This is the way it works now with a consolidated fire department, with City of Reno crews providing the primary response to all of Caughlin Ranch, regardless of jurisdiction. The County Commission has decided to terminate that, and will not discuss how they will provide primary response to your non-city residents. Reno will of course continue to provide primary response within the city limits, but without an agreement, the City of Reno can't legally provide primary response to another jurisdiction. This also includes EMS first response.

Mr. Michael Heffner, President Caughlin Ranch Homeowners Association March 8, 2012 Page 2

With the County's refusal to meet, I am very concerned about the consolidation agreement terminating July 1, with no Mutual Aid agreement in place.

The consolidated fire department works. Over ten years it saved \$45 million and today all of your residents can take comfort in the primary response you receive from the City of Reno. Since the County has decided to walk away from the agreement, I can't tell you how your unincorporated residents will be protected.

Should you have further questions, I advise you to direct your concerns to the Washoe County Board of Fire Commissioners (County Commissioners) directly as to how the new Truckee Meadows system will provide service to your area.

Sincerely

Robert A. Cashell, Sr.

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Mayor